



INDUSTRIAL WORKERS
OF THE WORLD

INDUSTRIAL WORKER

★ EDUCATION ★ ORGANIZATION ★ EMANCIPATION

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Danish General Strike Ends

Denmark's recent general strike began as a mid-March confrontation between unions representing 300,000 private-sector workers and the country's employers' association. The unions demanded a 35-hour week, to cut 9½% unemployment, and modest pay hikes. Employers refused point-blank, threatening a lockout.

Workers struck March 23rd, and bosses called on the Government (which participates in negotiations under Danish law and has the "right" to impose settlements) to make no concessions and to starve the strikers out.

Prime Minister Poul Schlüter announced emergency legislation March 27th banning all strikes (a pre-emptive move against public-service workers whose contracts expired April 1st) and setting a 2% ceiling on wage hikes for 1985 and 1.5% for 1986-87 for both the private and public sectors (inflation in Denmark is currently 5.6%). He also shortened the workweek from 40 to 39 hours.

Workers responded to this provocation March 28th by blocking off all access to the Danish Parliament in Copenhagen, where the emergency bill was being presented. It took Danish police more than six hours to regain control of the Parliament buildings, and demonstrators arrested during the siege face possible life imprisonment for "hindering parliament and democracy". The emergency legislation was approved 85 to 80 March 30th, to mixed reactions from union officials. Knud Christensen, head of the Danish Confederation of Labor (LO), termed the bill the single worst attack on Danish workers "since the hard times under the reactionary governments of the 1920s", but other LO officials declared that "Our philosophy is that law is law, and that law is to be obeyed."

The reaction of the rank and file was unequivocal, however. On April 1st all public-sector workers joined in a general strike, effectively shutting Denmark down. During a 100,000-strong protest rally outside Parliament tens of thousands of workers stormed the building, using sentry boxes to break down the doors and smashing windows.

However, instead of supporting and broadening this resistance, the LO called on its members to return to work. By April 8th most workers were back on the job. On April 10th, however, shop stewards—defying the national union leadership—organized a wildcat Day of Action. Hundreds of thousands of workers took part in demonstrations, and about a hundred thousand downed tools. Sporadic strikes continued, but within days the general strike was confined to port workers in two cities, and the Government had succeeded in imposing its austerity package.

If you had to depend entirely on the US press, you wouldn't know very much about this general strike. The *New York Times* ran only a few sketchy paragraphs, and the *Chicago Tribune* only a photo caption. The sex-and-scandal *Chicago Sun-Times* featured one day of screaming headlines, but no facts. Our account is based on a story in the Irish Republican newspaper *An Phoblacht* and on coverage in the *London Times*. Apparently the people who run the press here don't find it significant when workers shut down an entire country (or perhaps they're afraid others might think it a good idea).



Danish protesters try to break through a palace door in Copenhagen using a wooden sentry box. This action was in response to back-to-work legislation passed by the Danish Parliament March 30th in an effort to break a

series of wildcat strikes involving some 320,000 workers which broke out March 26th, disrupting transportation, crippling mail service, and reducing hospitals to emergency service. (Reuters photo)

General(s) Strike in Sudan

As is happening quite often these days, the spark that led to the downfall of Sudan's President Nimeiry was the severe austerity measures imposed by the Sudanese leader at the behest of the United States and the International Monetary Fund. The announcement of sharp price increases for basic commodities such as bread (30%) and gasoline (50%) led to widespread demonstrations and riots by students and unemployed in the capital city of Khartoum and other major towns in the waning days of March. The security forces reacted in typical fashion, violently attacking the demonstrations and arresting over 2600 demonstrators. Some protest leaders were rounded up and deported from the capital as "vagrants".

On April 3rd, while Nimeiry was off in Washington hobnobbing with Reagan and collecting the 67 million promised in exchange for the economic "reforms" im-

posed on the already far overburdened Sudanese people, professional workers declared a general strike and staged street demonstrations at which 15,000 to 20,000 workers demanded Nimeiry's resignation and the rescinding of the austerity measures. The strike brought Khartoum to a grinding halt—communications, power, transport, water... everything.

This show of strength was countered on April 6th by the Military, which staged a coup d'état led by Sudan's defense minister, General Swaredehab. (There is some speculation that the generals moved when they did to forestall a putsch by younger and presumably more "radical" junior officers, who might have been inclined to move Sudan out of the US orbit into closer proximity to the Soviet bloc.)

The new regime wasted no time ordering the strikers back to work, threatening to arrest anyone who tried to prolong the action for "high treason". Faced with this threat, the leaders of the Sudanese Workers Federation went on national television and urged their followers to return to work April 8th, though demonstrations for a return to civilian rule and the establishment of a multi-party democracy continued.

As the *Industrial Worker* goes to press, it is impossible to say what the ultimate outcome of the recent events in Sudan will be. On April 22nd the ruling Military Council appointed the leader of the national doctors' union, Dr. El-Gazouly Dafallah, to the post of prime minister in an interim civilian cabinet while retaining ultimate power and legislative authority for itself. Whether this rise to "power" of the leader of the doctors' union will benefit the Sudanese workers remains to be seen, but it is highly unlikely. The economic crisis that plagued Nimeiry will continue to plague Sudan's new rulers, and the exigencies of capitalism will dictate to them just as they dictated to their predecessors. Only by joining with their fellow workers around the globe and doing away with this capitalist system can the Sudanese working people hope to surmount their problems. The next general strike should aim at industrial freedom, not at a mere change of faces at the top.

Mike Hargis

Rights Commission Wrong

In a typically stupid decision, the United States Commission on Civil Rights voted 5 to 2 April 11th to urge Congress, the Justice Department (sic), and other Government agencies to reject the doctrine that women and men should be paid the same for different jobs of comparable worth. Under a policy of comparable worth, jobs are assessed by measuring the knowledge, skills, and effort required to perform them, which proponents claim reduces the difference between wages for predominantly women's jobs, such as nursing and secretarial work, and predominantly men's jobs, such as warehouse work and truck driving, which tend to pay more. But the Commission says job-evaluation studies are "inherently subjective" and cannot prove discrimination.

In a startling confusion of cause and effect, Commissioner Morris Abram opined: "There is sex-based discrimination in America, but it is declining. The repetitious charge that women earn only 60% of what men earn in this country obscures the significant fact that women work fewer hours, have less seniority, and work

more intermittently." Another commissioner, Robert Destro, uttered what must be one of the first expressions of concern for the rights of labor by any member of the Reagan Administration, saying that "Comparable worth imposed by Government has the potential to destroy the collective-bargaining rights of millions of Americans."

Meanwhile, even equal pay for equal work—never mind comparable worth—continues to elude women workers in all areas of the workforce. Even among upscale management, where one might expect sexual differentiation to be minimal, a study conducted by Mary Whiteside, assistant professor of statistics at the University of Texas Graduate School of Business, shows that among people with Master of Business Administration degrees who are working more than 50 hours a week, men average \$55,000 yearly, but women only \$29,000. Furthermore, these men earned 30% more money than men who worked less than 50 hours a week, while the female workaholics earned only 13% more than women who worked less.



One of the latest news headlines has been salmonella, a tribute to modern technology. One would think that if half the time and money spent on motivational research was spent studying microbes, life on this planet might be a little rosier. But such is not the case. With every miracle cure that is discovered, new miracle diseases make their debut.

It's not bad enough that our grocery shelves regale us with the latest in plastic food, but the damn bacteria seem to thrive on the stuff. And if you think your scribe exaggerates by referring to supermarket food as plastic, just read the ingredients on the next package you pick off the shelf. Of course, one should also lend a thought to the bright side of the picture: With the amount of plastic being ingested, artificial heart transplants may become more successful in the future.

I used to sit out on the front stoop and listen to the birds chirping at night. I still sit out on the front stoop when the weather is right, but now all I listen to are the jets flying overhead, as I can't seem to hear birds anymore. I guess they have better sense than to hang around where the jet fumes can trickle down on them, having a better understanding of the trickle-down theory than their earthbound two-legged brethren.

The trickle-down theory was well understood by the *peones* in Mexico for generations, as evidenced by the old folk saying "Los gallinas de arriba siempre caguen en los de abajo."—which politely translates as "The chickens on top always bestow their emissions on those down below." And this is a witticism that came from poor unlettered country people who were never exposed to the writings of Karl Marx or Mikhail Bakunin!

Great minds do have a way of discovering things that not-so-great minds knew all along, and our present economic system is a testimonial to the bankruptcy and ineffectuality of both types of minds. Perhaps it is something that is arrested in the evolutionary development of our species. It is well known that you can't get a dog to walk over a condemned bridge—that is, unless the dog has been sent to obedience school.

There is something basically amiss with the modern concept of education. Supposedly public education has made great strides since the days of training the young to read buffalo droppings to know how far away were the buffalo and future survival. Technological advancement has made an undeniable impact on our standards of education. From childhood on, we are admonished to study hard now so we won't have to work so hard later.

The reason the doctor, who only cures diseases, has so much more claim on economic security than the garbage collector, who actually prevents diseases, can be explained away with the rationale that the doctor went to school, and that consequently he is justified in charging eight hours' worth of the garbage collectors' time in exchange for a few minutes of his own time. Ergo, one does not seek higher learning for the sake of knowledge with the hope of passing that knowledge on. One seeks higher learning for the express purpose of taking advantage of those who don't know as much as he or she does; and therein lies another affirmation of that old Mexican saying.

May the reader of this diatribe be assured that such things as salmonella, Bhopal, and Three Mile Island have not come to pass through the bumbling incompetence of unlettered peasants or adventurous dilettantes like your scribe. The aforementioned goodies, and more to come within our rosy future, have come to us under the stewardship of some of the most highly trained and highly paid technological and scientific experts known to the human race. So rest assured that your future is in the hands of experts!

I once read that the slum dweller of today has much better health care than did the emperor Charlemagne, and also is much better educated and informed about the World than that great historical personage. We can also witness that our present-day union leaders are a much better educated group than their predecessors. It is true that many of the labor officials of old rose from the ranks and were no more polished in their manners than the rank and file they represented. Some of these erstwhile cigar makers, truck drivers, and plumbers were not exactly the type of people you would want to have around the house when the parson was calling, and the corpulence that resulted from too much desk-sitting did not add to their charm. The new breed of labor officials never laid bricks or slung a pick. On the contrary, they are likely to be college-educated corporation lawyers who have studied labor history, and whose educated demeanor will not permit emotion to interfere with their cool analytical thinking.

Therefore the reader is admonished not to be overly upset about loss of benefits, pensions, or jobs themselves. If even highly-educated experts don't know what they're doing, who in Hell does?

C. C. Redcloud

Editorial:

IWW: Now More Than Ever

The IWW is 80 years young this summer. Over the years many forces have attempted to destroy it. Bosses, trade-union bureaucrats, politicians of left and right, all have sought to prevent the IWW from achieving its goal of building one big union of the workers of the world. Yet the IWW has persisted in its efforts in the face of all the ridicule, slander, usurpations, and violence thrown at it. Why? Because there have been rebel workers who understand what the workers who attended that founding IWW congress in 1905 understood: that only a united working class, conscious of its power and willing to use it, can emancipate itself, and all humanity, from the degradation and violence of wage slavery.

Today, more than ever before, this degradation and violence of a decaying capitalist system holds the human race in subjugation. Just a glance at the capitalist press itself reveals the mass suffering caused by this rotten system: thousands killed in industrial accidents; millions starving in Africa; stinking refugee camps and shantytowns ringing the globe; and, for those who resist, plenty of jails, torture chambers, and death squads to take care of them. And to top it all off there is the daily threat of instant nuclear death.

Yet people continue to resist. Poland, South Africa, Great Britain, the Philippines, Latin America: all these are scenes of worker resistance to the onslaught of capital. But each of these pockets of resistance is haphazard, isolated within the confines of a single industry or nation, and all are doomed to failure in the face of a global capitalist system dominated by a few multinational conglomerates and financial empires, unless the means are

The Few and the Many

In April US corporations issue proxy statements, giving the rest of us a peek at the compensation level of each corporation's top five officers. Once again, million-dollar annual paychecks were numerous in 1984. And with profits up sharply from 1983 levels, many of the 1984 corporate bonuses awarded to executives by themselves approached a million bucks.

Among manufacturers, for instance, Chairman Harry Gray of United Technologies was paid \$1.6 million in salary, up from \$1.2 million in 1983. Gray also cashed in his stock options earned over five years for a total compensation package of \$4.2 million, exceeding in one year what few Americans make in a lifetime. Nor was Gray alone in his plunder. At International Business Machines, Chairman John Opel received a million in salary and bonuses, and cashed in options worth almost three million, the difference between the market price and the price actually paid. So his total compensation last year was \$3.8 million. At Exxon, C. C. Garvin Junior received \$1.4 million in salary and bonuses, up from \$1.2 million in 1983. With stock options exercised and company contributions to a savings plan added in, Garvin received a total compensation of \$2.6 million. At Mobil, Rawleigh Warner Junior saw his combined bonus and salary rise to \$1.8 million.

All told, according to the Princeton, New Jersey consulting firm Sibson and Company, compensation of top corporate officers rose an average of 12.6% last year, up from 5.6% in 1983. The firm forecasts another double-digit increase this year, but hedges its prediction on whether there will be another protest over executive pay this year. Reports last year that chief executives of the Big Three auto makers were making well over a million while workers were taking pay cuts evoked a chorus of criticism. But so far this year, Sibson happily points out, there has hardly been a murmur.

found to unite these struggles across national borders. Realizing this global solidarity, envisioned by the IWW in its very name: Industrial Workers of the *World*, is the immense task confronting the world's workers in the waning decades of the 20th Century. The IWW stands today, as it has for the last 80 years, ready to do its part in achieving this goal. Won't you join us?

Mike Hargis

Preamble of the Industrial Workers of the World

THE WORKING CLASS AND THE EMPLOYING CLASS HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON! THERE CAN BE NO PEACE SO LONG AS HUNGER AND WANT ARE FOUND AMONG MILLIONS OF WORKING PEOPLE AND THE FEW, WHO MAKE UP THE EMPLOYING CLASS, HAVE ALL THE GOOD THINGS OF LIFE.

BETWEEN THESE TWO CLASSES A STRUGGLE MUST GO ON UNTIL THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD ORGANIZE AS A CLASS, TAKE POSSESSION OF THE EARTH AND THE MACHINERY OF PRODUCTION, AND ABOLISH THE WAGE SYSTEM.

WE FIND THAT THE CENTERING OF THE MANAGEMENT OF INDUSTRIES INTO FEWER AND FEWER HANDS MAKES THE TRADE UNIONS UNABLE TO COPE WITH THE EVER GROWING POWER OF THE EMPLOYING CLASS. THE TRADE UNIONS FOSTER A STATE OF AFFAIRS WHICH ALLOWS ONE SET OF WORKERS TO BE PITTED AGAINST ANOTHER SET OF WORKERS IN THE SAME INDUSTRY, THEREBY HELPING DEFEAT ONE ANOTHER IN WAGE WARS. MOREOVER, THE TRADE UNIONS AID THE EMPLOYING CLASS TO MISLEAD THE WORKERS INTO THE BELIEF THAT THE WORKING CLASS HAVE INTERESTS IN COMMON WITH THEIR EMPLOYERS.

THESE CONDITIONS CAN BE CHANGED AND THE INTEREST OF THE WORKING CLASS UPHOLD ONLY BY AN ORGANIZATION FORMED IN SUCH A WAY THAT ALL ITS MEMBERS IN ANY ONE INDUSTRY, OR IN ALL INDUSTRIES IF NECESSARY, CEASE WORK WHENEVER A STRIKE OR LOCKOUT IS ON IN ANY DEPARTMENT THEREOF, THUS MAKING AN INJURY TO ONE AN INJURY TO ALL.

INSTEAD OF THE CONSERVATIVE MOTTO, "A FAIR DAY'S WAGE FOR FAIR DAY'S WORK," WE MUST INSCRIBE ON OUR BANNER THE REVOLUTIONARY WATCHWORD, "ABOLITION OF THE WAGE SYSTEM."

IT IS THE HISTORIC MISSION OF THE WORKING CLASS TO DO AWAY WITH CAPITALISM. THE ARMY OF PRODUCTION MUST BE ORGANIZED, NOT ONLY FOR THE EVERY-DAY STRUGGLE WITH CAPITALISTS, BUT ALSO TO CARRY ON PRODUCTION WHEN CAPITALISM SHALL HAVE BEEN OVERTHROWN. BY ORGANIZING INDUSTRIALLY WE ARE FORMING THE STRUCTURE OF THE NEW SOCIETY WITHIN THE SHELL OF THE OLD.

"We just don't anticipate the level of resentment we had last year," remarks David Duerr of New York's Hay Group consultants. "The fact that people are content and confident about the economy means they are less likely to complain about the salary of top executives."

Still, as stomach-turning as regular corporate salaries are to the rest of us, this is just business as usual. For what happens when profiteering starts getting really fancy, consider T. Boone Pickens, the oil-company take-over artist from Amarillo, Texas. His successful snatch of Mesa Petroleum netted him a three-million-dollar bonus in 1984, pushing his compensation from \$475,000 to \$4.2 million. And then there was Saul Steinberg, who figured a way to legally extort about a hundred million dollars out of Walt Disney Productions in a haul that would have left Jesse James speechless. And then there was Michael Milken of Drexel Brunham Lambert, who thought up the so-called "junk bond" financing used in corporate takeovers. His idea turned out so well last year that he cleared \$25 million.

And besides getting their loot, these free-booters are being hyped as the heroes of our times. Their pictures peer out triumphantly at us from *Business Week*, *Newsweek*, and *Money*. But we can do without every one of them: corporate looters and corporate regulars alike. The money they play with we made—working five days a week in the factories and stores, on the farms, and in the mines—we who don't get our pictures on the covers of magazines or get interviewed on the network news. We are the ones who make this society work, and every day we should remember the price we pay, both personally and collectively, for letting these sharks use our world as their swimming pool.

plp

ARGENTINE LABOR PROTEST

In the junta-controlled Argentina of 1976 to 1983, where up to 20,000 people were killed and children abducted with their parents or born in detention centers were shunted into a market for kids operated by the military government, one union protested. In a 1980 letter to President Videla, several men working in the Judicial Morgue of Cordoba summoned their courage and humbly requested his excellency Senor Presidente to intervene in the deteriorating situation at their morgue.

Their problems, said the exhausted workers, were caused by bands of police officers who had regularly dumped bodies in the morgue ever since 1975 without the required legal papers indicating cause of death. The bodies were horrible to see, even for men long injured to death. Hands and legs had been chopped completely off, jaws crushed, bodies flecked with torture marks. Sanitary disposal lagged woefully as clumps of bodies were stacked on the floor and hordes of larva and worms four inches deep crawled over them. Incense and disinfectant failed to quell the stench, and family members of victims had to be kept out despite their constant demands for admittance.

The morgue workers apologized to the President for bothering him, but explained that everyone else in the chain of command had already been notified about this situation and had failed to respond. The crushing workload had not let up for a single weekend in years. Could not the President do something? The workers desperately needed his help. They wanted more time off and a raise.

*EDUCATION *ORGANIZATION *EMANCIPATION



AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

ONE UNION ONE LABEL ONE ENEMY

Industrial Worker

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LABOR

WORKER SHOTS FOUR SUPERVISORS

Two hours after being suspended, ordered home, and threatened with firing for talking to his wife while both were working at the Anchor Glass Container plant in Southwestern Pennsylvania, Sonny Hammett killed four supervisors, wounded a fifth, and then killed himself last March.

Co-workers attribute the action to intense job pressures. Anchor Glass operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. As part of a speedup drive, workers have been prohibited from talking to each other. Anchor regularly fires or suspends workers for violating rules or failing to meet production quotas, which have risen dramatically since new owners took over two years ago.

The Glass, Pottery, Plastics, and Allied Workers Union, which represents Anchor's 600 workers, had a grievance pending over workloads in Hammett's department when the shooting took place, and local president John Kaylor contends that layoffs, speedups, and heavy-handed rules helped trigger the shootings. "There was tension in the plant," notes Kaylor. "They were asking us to do things that a human being cannot do for eight hours a day."

Anchor vice-president Richard Everett disputes this, arguing that "in every job there's a certain amount of stress". But he admits that productivity (a code word for speedups) has increased dramatically in recent years, noting that this increase is "a tribute to the co-operation of unions and management".

As long as this co-operation continues, bosses will continue to kill workers—sometimes on the installment plan through speedups and dangerous chemicals, sometimes quickly through industrial "accidents". And every once in a while they will push one of our fellow workers too far, and suffer the consequences. Surely it makes more sense to take control of industry from the bosses than to shoot them?

MEAT PACKERS CONTINUE TO BATTLE CONCESSIONS

Austin, Minnesota meat packers continue to do battle with both their employer, Hormel and Company, and their union's central office. These members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9 are battling wage concessions that cut their hourly pay from \$10.69 to \$8.75 despite a union contract (see the April IW). The UFCW okayed the pay cuts and has been trying to stop the Local from mounting a campaign to overturn them.

"The way you're leading this union, why should people join your union just to take concessions?" P-9 president James Guyette asked Lewie Anderson, head of the UFCW's packing-house division, at a stormy April 14th union meeting. Reportedly that meeting drew nearly all 1700 members of the Local, who heard union officials berate them for refusing to accept concessions, accusing them of "breaking solidarity". But the five-hour meeting demonstrated that these fellow workers remain unconvinced. Said one: "I think we should stick together, but it's Lewie who needs to get behind us."

The Austin meat packers hope to stimulate a grass-roots movement to stop givebacks. In these days when many so-called unions push wage cuts and speedups, we desperately need to build a union movement around the principle that an injury to one is an injury to all.

WORKER OWNERSHIP A DUBIOUS "SUCCESS"

The boss press has been quick to hail the "worker-owned" Weirton Steel Company as a great success. Formally owned by its workers under an employee stock-ownership plan (ESOP) since the former owner decided to shut the plant down in 1982, Weirton posted a 48-million-dollar profit during the first nine months of last year. The banks and investment firms which lent workers the money to buy the plant will doubtless get a handsome return on their loans.

But from the workers' perspective, things must be viewed somewhat differently. They agreed to a 20% cut in wages and benefits and a six-year wage freeze to keep the plant open. Combined with the effects of a speedup, these cuts reduced labor costs by \$50 a ton while Weirton's operating profit was reportedly about \$45 a ton. And the steel workers—whose labor produced them—have yet to receive any share of those profits. If they ever do receive a share, it will represent only the leavings after the bankers and other bosses have gouged their fill.

Even where such agreements specify profit sharing, "worker-owned" companies often fail to comply with them. Last April the board of Hyatt-Clark Industries, another so-called worker-owned firm in Clark, New Jersey, simply refused to distribute any profits to the workers. As at Weirton, these workers select only a small portion of the company's officers, who are not accountable to them after election and remain constrained by the capitalist system they work within.

And while workers agree to ESOPs and the massive pay cuts that go along with them to save their jobs, often not even that is accomplished. About a third of Weirton's workers have been laid off since 1980, while a similar setup at Rath Packing Company—an Iowa meat packer—saw the workforce drop from 2,000 when the ESOP was set up in 1980 to about 300 before Rath close its doors and turned to the bankruptcy courts late last year.

(information from *The People*)

TEAMSTERS TO VOTE ON CONCESSIONS

As this issue of the *Industrial Worker* goes to press, 200,000 Teamster freight drivers and dockworkers are about to vote on the proposed National Master Freight Agreement. The new three-year pact sets up a three-tier pay scale whereby new hires will be paid only 70% of full-scale wages (rising to regular pay only after four years on the job). Part-time workers also will take a dramatic pay cut, from \$13.30 an hour to \$11.

Reportedly, the new starting pay will be less than the pay at many non-union carriers. The new contract also eliminates cost-of-living pay hikes, instead providing a 19-cent-an-hour wage hike in the first year of the contract (supplemented by 31¢ of deferred COLA), and 50¢ in the second and third years.

Thus the new contract follows the concessionary pat-



tern established in the 1982 contract, which saved large carriers hundreds of thousands of dollars that they used to set up parallel non-union operations. Members will be given a choice of either voting for the new contract or voting to strike. (Under Teamster rules it will take a two-thirds vote to reject the contract.)

PUTTING THE ROUGE IN BATON ROUGE

The good ol' USA may be the land of milk and honey, but the milk has gone sour and the plutocrats have stolen all the honey. It appears as if the "good times", if any ever existed, are over for the working class of America.

An example of how rotten things have gotten can be seen here in Baton Rouge, where the petrochemical industry is on wobbly legs—and I don't mean IWW Wobbly either!

A few plants have already closed, and a couple more are about to shut down. Petrochemical workers who have remained on the job can look forward to a "bright" future of massive layoffs. This state has 11% unemployment, and thanks to the big oil companies (which own Louisiana) that unemployment percentage is about to take off! The sky's the limit, as they say.

The politicians, the capitalist press, and other mouth-pieces for the ruling class like to talk about the wonderful prosperity that is just around the corner for Louisianians dependent on the oil patch for an income. This state just doesn't have that many corners. Ex petroleum workers who had good-paying jobs and were fortunate enough to find other employment are now found in such important positions as deep-fry cooks at local burger stands. I guess that's all part of Reagan's recovery.

Mother Jones said you don't need a vote to raise hell, and it's high time for the workers of Louisiana to stop worrying about the ballot box and start raising hell. The Wall Street robber barons seem to have their iron heels in the spines of workers everywhere you look. There's only one solution to this problem, and that's to build a strong working-class union. It's been said before, but I'll say it again: DON'T MOURN, ORGANIZE!

Ben Trant, X328313

CAMPBELL'S SOUP BOYCOTT CONTINUES

The Farm Labor Organizing Committee, which has been on strike against the Campbell Soup Company's tomato and cucumber contractors in the Midwest since 1978, signed up another 2,000 migrant workers last summer. Now they are organizing a corporate campaign, focusing on two large insurance companies that deal with Campbell's (Prudential and Equitable Life) and on Core States/Philadelphia National Bank, which holds large amounts of Campbell's stock. In addition, the boycott against Campbell's soup and other products continues.

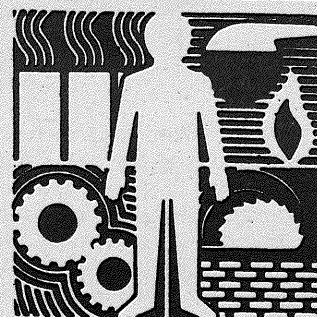
NEWSLETTER PUBLICIZES BOYCOTTS

A quarterly newsletter has been started to spread information about active boycotts. Most of those listed in the first issue of the *National Boycott Newsletter* are labor boycotts, though Human Rights, Peace, Environmental, and Animal Rights boycotts are also included. The newsletter lists 39 boycotts covering hundreds of companies, brand names, banks, entertainers, and military contractors. A four-issue subscription to this newsletter costs \$2 (6506 28th Avenue Northeast, Seattle, Washington 98115). For a list of products to boycott, send a stamped self-addressed envelope to that address.

Other publications providing boycott information include *The Grapevine* (217 South Hyland Street, Ames, Iowa 50010) and *The Boycott Census* (RFD 1, Box 3445, Norway, Maine 04268).

Fred Thompson's

labor in north america



United Air Lines Pilots have been fighting imposition of a two-tier wage structure since last fall. In mid-April the National Mediation Board urged that company and union put the issue to arbitration, but the company said no. Thus United's 5800 pilots may go out on strike before June.... At Pan Am the pilots returned to work in March, leaving 5800 mechanics and baggage handlers to continue what had been their joint strike. But even so the 5800 mechanics and baggage handlers won a series of 5% raises and special severance provisions for 625 commissary workers being laid off.... Three years after they should have received them, PATCO strikers won jobless benefits in two states: Louisiana and Michigan.

Railroad workers face the loss of 25,000 jobs with the projected closing down of Amtrak in October. Canadian railroad workers are trying to keep the cabooses on freight trains, saying it's not safe to get rid of them.

Teamster officers have proposed acceptance of a two-tier pay system, but the internal opposition, Teamsters for a Democratic Union, urges non-acceptance, noting that with this system an employer "can make \$24,000 by eliminating just one senior employee". The TDU is also concerned that Roadway Package System, a new competitor to UPS, may be allowed to develop non-union unless pressure is put on Roadway Express, its parent company, to prevent this.

Now pause a moment to picture what workers engaged in transportation could do for themselves, if they developed the capacity to exercise whatever degree of unity was needed to protect their interests....

The ITU typesetters turned down by the Graphics Communication Union will vote July 8th on a proposed merger with the Teamsters—an affiliation that might prevent delivery of scab papers.

Weyerhaeuser Lumber made over \$2 million last year, but would give no pay raise; so the International Woodworkers struck its operations from Georgia to Oklahoma. On the first day of the strike, picket Joe Rymer was run over by a gyppo.

A one-week strike at Filene's 14 stores in Massachusetts and Rhode Island won 4.5 and 5% annual raises over the next three years for 3,000; it was the first strike in the 40 years that Filene's has been organized.... At Macy's in New York, Retail Workers got a new four-year contract providing for 20- and 15-dollar hikes in weekly pay each year.

Thirteen unions have set up a co-ordinated bargaining committee to deal with Westinghouse, where union contracts will expire July 24th. This is a practice developed in 1965 and tested in the 101-day strike of 1969-70. A similar solidarity policy is working at GE, where contracts expired May 14th and where management says it just might replace half its crew with robots. Both companies recently sold their lamp and consumer-appliance plants.

The Steel Workers Union, like the UAW, is taking in members in other industries, and is negotiating with the Upholsterers to bring in their 35,000 to swell its 700,000 ranks. Fourteen months ahead of contract expiration the Steel Workers reached a new three-year contract with Kaiser Aluminum, covering 6300 in a dozen plants, to give Kaiser concessions of \$2.19 an hour, with 80% of these concessions to be returned to employees in the form of stocks. Steel Workers have reached an agreement with Inland Steel that when the new slab caster ousts men, a hundred senior employees can retire with a 400-a-month supplement until they reach 62 while retaining insurance benefits, instead of displacing more-recently-hired workers. In the Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia steel complex, 70,000 of the 90,000 who had jobs in 1979 are now jobless, and are talking about "eminent domain" rights to buy their old plants and run them.

In the last few years Chicago has lost 275,000 manufacturing jobs. US Steel South Works alone laid off some 11,000—half of whom are still jobless. But McDonald's snack bars now employ more people than South Works did at its peak, and at far lower pay. In the last five years 2,000 factories have died or left Chicago, among them Ludwig Drum, Playskool, and Schwinn Bicycle. Firms that have stayed have switched from manufacture to paperwork: Bell and Howell, which once used to make cameras, is now into vocational education; Borg-Warner has gone from manufacture to supplying security guards and couriers; and Gould has switched from batteries to computers.

Two-tier pay scales, while widely regretted by workers who accepted them in the hope of holding their jobs, continue to proliferate. The Bureau of National Affairs says they were granted in 8% of non-construction contracts, and Wharton Econometrics figures they imposed an average pay differential of 15% on new hands at the same job.

Of the 84 million non-farm households in the US, 25 million got Social Security checks last year, and 39 million got some sort of "benefit".

REVOLUTIONARY UNION NEWS

SPAIN: Word has reached us via France that several militants of the National Confederation of Labor of Euskadi (CNT-E: the Basque section of the revolutionary syndicalist CNT-Unificado) were busted last November on trumped-up charges of being members of armed organizations (FIGA: the Iberian Federation of Anarchist Groups, and CAA: Autonomous Anti-Capitalist Comandos); participation in an *attentat* against a Michelin executive, M. Casanova; attacks on a number of banks; raising a revolutionary levy; and engaging in intimidation of employers and various acts of sabotage. A militant of the Socialist union UGT (General Union of Workers) was arrested at the same time, but the charges were dropped.

The CNT militants, known for their union activity, have denied all the charges and see them as an attempt to weaken the CNT-E, which has been gaining strength in the Basque country, particularly in Vitoria, where the organization has been engaged in a campaign against the introduction of a fourth shift at the Michelin plant. Evidence of this growth was the demonstration of 4,000 workers against the arrests.

Three of those arrested (Andres Sanchez, Vincente Alvarado, and Jose Manuel Collado) have since been transferred to Carabanchel prison in Madrid, a long way from their base in Vitoria, and have accused the authorities of torture. While the charges of membership in an armed organization have been dropped, they still face the other charges and remain in jail. Readers are encouraged to write to the Spanish Embassy to demand that these class-war prisoners be freed along with the other 27 libertarian prisoners rotting away in Spain's "socialist" dungeons.

Meanwhile, the anarcho-syndicalist CNT-AIT is continuing its campaign to expose the anti-working-class nature of the Socialist Workers Party government of Felipe Gonzalez, especially the Acuerdo Economico Social (AES: Economic Social Accord) and its attendant industrial "reconversion" agreements, adhered to by the "socialist" UGT (General Union of Workers). The AES is the latest in a long line of "social pacts" entered into by the majoritarian reformist unions and the government or employers' associations since 1977. All have promised to resolve the profound economic crisis shaking Spanish society, while in reality aiming at domesticating the Spanish workers' movement.

While the latter attempt has succeeded to a certain extent, the former has failed miserably. There are now 2,700,000 unemployed; the buying power of wages has fallen by 28% since 1977; and there has been a huge increase in temporary contract work and expansion of the underground economy. The AES promises more of the same: Real wages will fall three points each year of the three-year agreement, and no new jobs will be created

(in fact, restructuring of the shipbuilding industry has led to the loss of thousands of jobs).

Luckily, the workers' movement has not been completely housebroken and is still able to mobilize itself through its general assemblies. This has been shown in the general strikes and protests that have taken place in Asturias, Catalonia, Euskadi, and Galicia against the destruction of the shipbuilding industry, in which the CNT-AIT was active. In December a general strike paralyzed 80% of the industry in Euskadi. The role the CNT-AIT has played has been one of agitation and exposure, both within the industries in which it has sections, such as Altos Hornos de Sagunto (a shipbuilding concern), and in the communities. Via thousands of leaflets, posters, and periodicals, as well as rallies and street demonstrations, the anarcho-syndicalists have been urging their fellow workers to oppose the social pacts and struggle to defend their jobs and living standards. Rallies organized by the CNT-AIT in recent months have attracted 3,000 in Barcelona and over 1500 in Madrid, and a general strike initiated by the CNT-AIT shut down Cadiz.

GREAT BRITAIN: As noted in previous issues of the *Industrial Worker*, the Direct Action Movement (DAM: the British section of the International Workers' Association) played an active role in the recent coal miners' strike, raising funds through its international contacts; arranging for speaking engagements abroad for miners and holidays for the strikers' kids; and so on. The particular action, however, that could prove beneficial for the future of revolutionary unionism in Great Britain was the Congress for Industrial Action co-sponsored by DAM and the Burnley Miners Support Group, which was held in this northern Yorkshire community January 19th. Over 120 workers attended this gathering, which heard speeches by Peter Heathfield (National Secretary of the National Union of Miners), Dave Douglas (Hatfield NUM delegate), and Tony Crowther (National Secretary of DAM and a delegate in the National Union of Railwaymen), and discussed future strategy in several workshops.

Heathfield reportedly gave a rather lackluster talk, while Douglas and Crowther lashed out at the betrayal of the strikers by the Trade Union Congress and Labor Party leaders who did all in their power to contain any manifestation of industrial action in solidarity with the miners. They pointed out the need to go directly to the rank and file of the trade unions to garner active support for the strike in the form of picket-line support and sympathetic strike action.

The outcome of the workshops that followed was a call for a solidarity strike on March 6th, the first anniversary of the strike, and a resolution urging that the Miners Support Committees which have sprung up during the strike continue after the struggle is over as a base

from which to build the rank-and-file movement.

Though the coal miners have been driven back to their jobs, and to certain joblessness for at least 25,000 of them as the Government goes through with its plan to close "unprofitable" pits, the strike will not have been a total defeat if some of the seeds of solidarity that have been planted continue to germinate. Particularly needed now is solidarity with the 150 class-war prisoners sitting in British jails, under sentences ranging from 6 weeks to 2½ years, and the 700 miners sacked for strike activity. Drop a line to the British Embassy and demand that these class fighters be freed. Remember, An Injury to One Is an Injury to All.

JOB ACTION: In late February a Beirut airport guard hijacked Flight 201 shortly before it was due to take off for Paris and London. Waving a revolver, Doraid Hassan ordered the 104 passengers off the plane and then ordered the crew to take off. Describing himself as "one of the silent majority", Hassan told officials via the air controllers that he wanted a promotion for himself and pay raises and better equipment for all airport guards. He also demanded that the army and paramilitary police be removed from the airport, saying he was dissatisfied with their work. "If my demands are not met," he said, "I will do a terrorist or criminal act. Maybe I'll crash on the presidential palace." Hassan agreed to let the plane return to Beirut after airport authorities told him that his demands were just and they would consider them.

BUILD TOWARDS THE GENERAL STRIKE

IWW GENERAL SECRETARY ARRESTED

IWW General Secretary-Treasurer Jon Bekken was arrested April 18th for distributing leaflets urging people to organize against US military intervention. Originally arrested under a Chicago ordinance prohibiting leafleting within 150 feet of a school (or a variety of other public buildings), FW Bekken was held in jail for several hours because he did not have the funds to post bond. During this time the Chicago chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit challenging the Chicago Police Department's practice of holding people in jail on charges for which they cannot legally be imprisoned solely because of their inability to post cash bond. The ACLU is also seeking damages for unlawful arrest and detention.

The charges have since been changed to trespassing on City property, and FW Bekken and Pamela Hall (who was arrested with him) are scheduled to go to court May 29th.

(THIS AD ARRIVED TOO LATE FOR INCLUSION IN OUR MAY ISSUE)



MAYDAY
GREETINGS

FROM
THE
UNIVERSITY
CELLAR
BRANCH

COB: Bolivia's "One Big Union"

Bolivia is one of the poorest countries in South America. It has an infant-mortality rate of more than 157 deaths per thousand, and the life expectancy of its people is 48 years. Its 6,000,000 inhabitants are burdened with a debt of \$4.4 billion, an inflation rate that defies belief (2700% in 1984), and a "left" Government that appears to be more than willing to knuckle under to the dictates of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

But Bolivia also has one of the most combative labor movements in that part of the world. The Central Obrera Boliviana (COB: Bolivian Workers' Center) has 800,000 members and has been, since its inception in 1952, the staunchest defender of the democratic process and of workers' rights in Bolivia. It is, indeed, the focal point for the hopes and aspirations of the workers and peasants of Bolivia for liberation and a better life.

The COB is unique among unions in Latin America in that it is completely *independent* of the Government and of all political parties, while allowing the widest possible political pluralism within its ranks. Though representatives of all political philosophies, from the Communist Party on the right to the anarcho-syndicalists on the left, are free to present and defend their differing perspectives, once a decision is made the *unity* of the workers takes precedence.

The key to the preservation of this *unity* and *autonomy* is the deeply-ingrained democratic and class consciousness of the union's base, particularly within the 50,000-member Miners' Federation, the backbone of the COB, and the peasants' union, the Confederación de Sindicatos Unicos de Trabajadores Campesinos de Bolivia (CSUTCB). The anarcho-syndicalist tradition and the practice of mutual aid are strongest in the mining camps and rugged rural areas where the harsh life has made mutual aid mandatory and has given rise to the kind of self-reliance and solidarity that seems to be characteristic of mining communities throughout the world. Equally a tradition in the mining camps is the *general assembly*, where men and women have their voice and vote on all questions relating to the welfare of the community.

An example of this grass-roots democracy at work was the COB's Sixth Congress, held in Cochabamba last September. At this gathering 1200 delegates debated the course of action to take in the face of the mounting economic crisis and the misery it is sowing among the working people of the country. A particularly volatile issue was the question of the COB's attitude toward the democratic Government of Hernan Siles Zuazo.

Since Zuazo's assumption of power in November of 1982, the economic crisis has deepened and the demands for austerity by the IMF and the World Bank as the price for continued economic "assistance" have increased—

with the result that the working people of Bolivia have been pushed to the wall. The COB has led the resistance to austerity with a campaign of general strikes, road-blocks, occupations, and other direct actions to achieve the dual objective of tying wage hikes to the cost of living and forcing the Zuazo Government to repudiate the 4.4-billion debt. This opposition to the Government's austerity program of devaluation of the peso coupled with raises in the prices of basic necessities has not prevented the COB from vigorously defending the democratic process against the threat from the right, as it did in June of 1984, when a general strike thwarted a coup staged by right-wing paramilitary groups and a section of the Army tied to the cocaine trade and backed by Argentina. However once the Government was secured,



On February 5th more than a thousand farmers camped outside the Philippine Ministry of Agriculture, demanding a rollback of fertilizer prices. Security forces violently dispersed the rally February 13th, reportedly because the Minister of Agriculture wanted the premises cleared for the visit of US Senator John Melcher later that day. Some 30 farmers were treated for injuries following the attack, and two protest organizers were arrested. Several hundred students marched toward the headquarters of the Philippine Constabulary that afternoon to protest the dispersal of the farmers' rally, and were themselves forcibly dispersed by police.

the COB resumed its campaign in defense of workers' class interests with another general strike.

At the Congress the COB's intransigent stance was challenged by a so-called "Legalist" faction, led by the Bolivian Communist Party (PCB), which argued for support of the Zuazo Government in spite of its "errors", which the "Legalists" felt could be rectified, in the hope that points of the Government's "progressive" program could be implemented. (It was not coincidental that the PCB held government posts at the time.) They punctuated their arguments with reminders of the 189 military coups suffered by Bolivia in 156 years of independence.

The "Anti-legalists", led by the Unified Revolutionary Directorate (DRU: a coalition of parties and groups of the revolutionary left including the anarcho-syndicalists), countered with the argument that the Government was using the threat of a military coup as a cover for its capitulation to the dictates of the IMF and its anti-working-class austerity program. The Zuazo Government is not equidistant from the workers and the capitalists, but is in the camp of the right and imperialism.

The outcome of the debate was a determination to defend the democratic *process* against the rightist threat, as a conquest of the workers' struggle, while at the same time stepping up the campaign to defend and improve the workers' living standards.

The rejection of the "Legalists" was underscored by the failure of the PCB to win any seats on the newly-elected Executive Committee, including the exterior-relations post which had been held by PCB militant Simon Reyes for 20 years.

Since the Congress, the struggle against austerity has intensified. The latest general strike (reported in the May IW), lasting 16 days in March, did not achieve its immediate objective (a 500% wage boost with wages tied to the cost of living), and the workers were forced to retreat in the face of the armed forces of the "democratic" Government. The class war in Bolivia will undoubtedly get fiercer in the future as the lives of the workers and peasants become even more desperately impoverished. But as long as they have their "One Big Union" the Bolivian working class stand a fighting chance.

Mike Hargis

(Editorial note: The greatest task facing the working class in the waning years of the 20th Century is to develop greater international solidarity in the face of the global offensive of capitalism. It is in the interest of promoting such solidarity that the *Industrial Worker* will be presenting profiles of revolutionary labor movements and organizations in various parts of the world in this and future issues of the paper.)

IWW Influences in S. African Unions

A lot of attention has been focused on the South African black union movement recently. Unionized workers have been more active in their opposition to apartheid and economic exploitation. Strikes by gold miners for union recognition were broken last fall, although wage hikes were gained at some mines. The National Union of Miners continues to organize, and on November 5th and 6th a general strike of black workers made it tougher for "business as usual" in the Johannesburg-Pretoria industrial districts. (For more details, see the November through April issues of the *IWW*.)

The first industrial unions in South Africa were affiliated with the Industrial Workers of the World. IWW sailors spread the idea and lots of literature at their ports of call, and by 1910 a South African administration (the IWW-SA) had been established, with most members in the marine-transport and municipal-transportation industries. These trades were traditionally limited to white workers. Thinking coal and gold miners—white, black, and "coloured", meaning Asians and racially-mixed folk—had realized that no union could be successful in the mining districts without including all races, and some of these workers joined the IWW as well.

Many South African workers had been alienated by the purely political approach of the Labour Party, with which most unions were allied, and were ready for something different in their struggle with the bosses. The IWW idea of worker solidarity and direct action to replace capitalism with worker control of production gradually won acceptance.

In January of 1911, Johannesburg's tramway workers struck for the removal of an obnoxious inspector. Craft-union leaders were ejected from strike meetings when they tried to get the workers to call off the "illegal" strike. That same day, the City gave in and the jerk was removed. Tom Glynn and the Dunbar brothers (Glen and Andrew) persuaded their fellow workers to form a new branch of the IWW's Municipal Transport Workers. In May the City retaliated, firing the three agitators. The IWW tramway workers protested by walking off the job, abandoning trolleys in mid-route. Armed cops were called in, and other municipal employees soon joined the strike.

Women, organized by "Pickhandle" Mary Fitzgerald, sat on the trolley tracks to prevent scabs from operating the trams, and some abandoned trolleys could not even be moved back to the sheds.

A regular free-speech fight started up when the City banned public meetings. The cops arrested each of the

speakers as they got up to address crowds of workers, then broke up street meetings with mounted cops. Nevertheless, some 12,000 workers attended a public strike meeting.

This first reported IWW strike in South Africa was broken when two IWW members (Whittaker and Morant) were charged with placing dynamite on tramlines. The resulting media hysteria turned public opinion against the strike. The defendants were acquitted when a government informant admitted planting the explosives, but it was too late to save the strike.

In 1911 Archie Crawford, the editor of the Johannesburg *Voice of Labour*, went on a speaking tour of the world sponsored by the IWW-SA.

In 1912, a proposal was made to form a black miners' union. Crawford's *Voice of Labour* asked white miners to support such an organization. The IWW agreed, and

SOUTH AFRICAN STRUGGLE CONTINUES

As the *Industrial Worker* goes to press, the South African Government has arrested three more leaders of the United Democratic Front to join the 50 others who are now facing trial for "high treason" (trying to overturn the apartheid system), and has banned 29 organizations from meeting. Police have continued to fire on demonstrators, massacring 43 protesters on March 21st. Some 50,000 people attended two funerals in South Africa's Eastern Cape region.

Meanwhile, demonstrations continue almost daily in South Africa despite severe repression. South African unions continue to play a major role in these struggles, staging strikes, boycotts, and demonstrations. On March 2nd the FOSATU won an agreement reinstating three-fourths of the workers fired from the SASOL oil-from-coal plant for participating in last November's general strike, and it is continuing to seek reinstatement for the remaining workers. On April 2nd 8,000 Volkswagen and Goodyear workers downed tools for 15 minutes, protesting police killings.

Several South African unions are in the process of forming a new federation (which they hope to launch in October) to more effectively combat the bosses. These unions, many of which operate on a non-racial basis, offer the best hope for South Africa's mostly-black workers. (In the near future the *IWW* will publish a profile of these unions.)

printed supporting articles in *Industrial Solidarity*.

Before this new union could get started, workers at the New Kleinfontein mine were ordered to work all day on Saturday. They refused, and all the workers—including blacks as well as English- and Afrikaaner-speaking whites—walked out. Management agreed to rescind the order on condition that 30 "troublemakers" would be fired; but the workers refused to be divided, and stayed out.

The Transvaal Federation of Trade Unions tried to keep the strike from spreading to other mines. But Archie Crawford and "Pickhandle" Mary showed up and went from mine to mine, bringing out more miners. The entrenched segregation attitudes were broken down with the slogan: "All strikers stand on this side—scabs over there." The Transvaal Federation decided to play along and take over control of the strike from the rank and file, calling for a general strike. The Government met this with force, killing 31 and injuring 417 at a street meeting in Johannesburg's Market Square on July 4th, 1913. But the workers armed themselves and fought back, and the Government eventually conceded defeat.

The South African IWW was pretty much broken by the end of World War I, though members remaining in the country continued to agitate and organize. (Others, like Glynn, had gone on to Australia and New Zealand, helping to organize the IWW's One Big Union idea there.) Other unions did spring up in South Africa, but were now mostly segregated by law. The important Industrial and Commercial Workers Union of Africa (ICU) was formed in 1920. This was an industrial union with mostly non-white membership, and got regular coverage in the IWW press.

The IWW had greatly influenced the ICU, whose first Preamble and Constitution were based on the IWW's. The ICU also called for the formation of One Big Union and for non-alliance with political groups. But there were too many differences to allow the two unions to merge. For example, the ICU discouraged strikes and other job actions, preferring to trust to government legislation. This position and internal bickering caused the collapse of the ICU in 1938.

In his popular and widely-distributed history, *The Wobblies* (1967), Patrick Renshaw reports that "In 1922 the IWW instigated a massive uprising of white miners in the Rand Goldfields..." (Page 291). By this time, how-

(continued on Page 6)

Interesting Items and Notes

ECONOMIC RECOVERY?

For years the whizzes who run our economy have been telling us of the wondrous recovery under way in the US, even though unemployment continues at near-record levels and more than half of all workers who hold jobs are poverty-stricken, according to a recent report. A similar sort of recovery seems to be under way in Europe, if these pundits are to be believed. An article in the February 4th *New York Times* claims that "Analysts are being pleasantly surprised by the economic recovery that began in Britain in 1982, gathered steam last year in Germany, and is now taking hold in virtually every country from Scandinavia to the Mediterranean." The article goes on to discuss exports, business investment, and reduced inflation, concluding that "Business profits have soared during the recovery."

But amid all this cheer, perhaps we can be excused if we look at the unemployment statistics. Current projections indicate that 1985 will be the 13th straight year of rising unemployment, and the Organization for Economic Development says there is little prospect of a significant drop in the next few years. Belgium, France, Denmark, Italy, and Spain have all begun dismantling indexed wage-increase systems that offered workers limited protection from inflation. Government-enforced austerity programs have undermined the living standards of workers across Europe, while nationalized industries have been throwing tens of thousands of workers on the unemployment lines.

Surely these workers join the analysts in being "surprised" at the economic recovery. Indeed, they might be excused for believing that things were getting worse; because in fact they are, for everyone except the bosses and a small group of managers and technicians at the top.

As the "economic recovery" sweeps through Europe, leaving misery, poverty, and unemployment in its wake, the workers have been increasingly resorting to massive strikes in an effort to bring the bosses to heel. But ultimately, we will have to organize and act on a world scale if we are to effect a *real* recovery.

JB

JEEP WORKERS PISSED OFF

Some 4,000 Toledo Jeep workers were sent home on April 12th, following the second day of worker protests against loss of seniority and the Jeep company's and UAW's decision not to repay concessions as agreed in 1982. Reportedly more than 150 vehicles on three assembly lines were damaged during production, with side panels pushed in, doors welded shut, and holes punched in the quarter panels. Company officials estimate that \$400,000 of damage was done.

The situation stems from concessions extracted from Jeep workers in 1982. Under that agreement—initially

angrily voted down but eventually accepted in the face of a concerted union drive for ratification—the workers loaned American Motors Corporation, which owns Jeep, an average of \$8,000 each through a freeze on wages and benefits. The money was to be paid back in 1985, but the union is allowing the company to repay workers gradually—out of profit-sharing funds—instead. AMC made some 15.5 million dollars last year, and plans to pay workers about \$300 each. At this rate it will take some 24 years for Jeep workers to recover the funds they loaned the company.

And as if that weren't enough, many of the workers who advanced the company these funds in order to save their jobs have since been laid off.

IW SUSTAINING FUND (Received During March 1985)

Gilbert Mers, Houston, TX	14.00
George LaForest, Rockford, IL	5.00
David and Shawn Tiffany, Gunnison, CO	3.00
"An Hour's Wages", South Deerfield, MA	5.00
T. F. Carty, Rio Linda, CA	2.50
Penny Skillman, San Francisco, CA	1.00
Katharine Smith, Massapeque, NY	3.50
John Lees, Ann Arbor, MI	10.00
Gary Vendetti, Port Elizabeth, NJ	2.50
August Steiner-Zehender, Delta, OH	10.00
TOTAL	56.50

Many thanks, fellow workers, for your generous support. (The *Industrial Worker* loss for March was \$449.43.)

STACKING THE DECKS

Teamsters Local 579 in Janesville, Wisconsin has hit a new low in the drive for concessions. On the ballot they submitted to members, those favoring concessions were to check a box marked: "I accept the concessions based on the facts of the union's and CPA's examination of the financial records of my employer in an effort to keep my job." Anyone opposing the concessions had to mark a box reading: "I am in favor of putting Mc-Mor-Han Trucking Company out of business, and myself out of my job immediately, by not accepting the concessions to the labor agreement." No prizes for guessing how that one came out.

INDUSTRIAL WORKER GETTING THROUGH

Last issue we reported that Ohio prison authorities had declared the *Industrial Worker* "contraband" and refused to deliver it to two inmates. On April 12th we were notified that the *IW* is now being delivered, though prison officials continue to refuse to turn over these two FWs' membership cards.

WOBBLY FIRED FOR DEMANDING 40-HOUR WEEK

Fellow Worker Ed Stamm was fired April 3rd by Alex R. Masson Incorporated of Linwood, Kansas (Sunflower Sue products) after demanding that overtime be voluntary, but he is continuing his efforts to organize his co-workers. FW Stamm refused to show up for forced overtime Sunday, March 31st, and had a co-worker deliver a note to his supervisor explaining that due to physical exhaustion and loss of private life he would no longer be working more than 40 hours a week. Before this he had worked 18 weeks for the company, including 13 involving mandatory overtime.

On April 1st Stamm met with the personnel manager and his supervisor, re-asserting his refusal to work overtime and stating that overtime should be made voluntary for all employees, with the company hiring more workers if necessary to maintain production. Two days later he was fired.

FW Stamm, with the help of fellow Wobs Arthur J. Miller and Kamalla Laqueta, is trying to organize Sunflower Sue workers into IWW Floricultural Workers Industrial Union 140. Issues in dispute include not only mandatory overtime, but also a pay hike, longer breaks, an employee bulletin board, an end to spraying the pesticide Temik while unprotected workers are still in the greenhouse, and hazardous-duty pay for drivers who are forced to drive during travelers' advisories.

Sunflower Sue employs about 70 workers at its Linwood complex, with greenhouses also in Kansas City, Kansas and Las Cruces, New Mexico. There are greenhouse, office, and order-processing workers, shipping personnel, drivers, and a mechanic. The company's major customers are discount stores, groceries, and retail florists.

During the company's peak seasons, Christmas and spring, some workers are expected to work 11-hour days and one or two days on the weekend, most of them for \$3.50 to \$4 an hour. Equal pay for equal work is also an issue. FW Stamm was making \$4.60 an hour as a laborer while his co-worker, hired the day after Stamm, was paid only \$4 an hour. This man is a black Vietnam veteran 20 years older than Stamm. The only other difference is that Stamm is a college graduate—but the two men were doing *exactly* the same work.

Because of these conditions, Sunflower Sue has high turnover. But if these workers decide to organize and stick together, they can make their jobs more tolerable. Surely that makes more sense than trying to find a boss who will treat them right.

South Africa...

(continued from Page 5)

ever, the IWW-SA had ceased to exist. Also, the IWW press in Chicago condemned the strike, as it was a white-racist uprising aimed as much at black workers as at mine management. Articles in the IWW's *Industrial Solidarity* compared white workers in South Africa to the "labor aristocrats" of the then-segregated American Federation of Labor.

The IWW tactic of the general strike has become a regular part of the black union movement's repertoire when protesting apartheid and economic exploitation. In South Africa it is known as the "stay at home", which can stop production with the solidarity of unskilled labor alone. But the IWW's interpretation evolved into "strike on the job", so that necessary production and services could continue during the job action. In this way, workers could take over from the bosses.

At the IWW's founding convention in 1905, Lucy Parsons, a black IWW co-founder, proclaimed: "I wish to say that my conception of the future method of taking possession of this [the means of production] is that of the general strike. The trouble with all the strikes in the past has been this: The workingmen...strike and go out and starve. Their children starve. Their wives get discouraged.... That is the way with the strikes of the past. My conception of the strike of the future is not to strike and go out and starve, but to strike and remain in and take possession of the necessary property of production. If anyone is to starve—I do not say it is necessary—let it be the capitalist class. They have starved us long enough...."

It has been suggested that South Africa's skilled black miners could take over the country's mining industry. Such a "strike on the job", perhaps co-ordinated with an armed insurrection, would allow the black majority to seize economic power and keep the gold, diamond, and coal mines operating in order to provide the necessary foreign exchange to re-orient the economy. But in any case, the general strike and the strike on the job are two of the most potent weapons in the hands of our South African fellow workers.

(Author's note: I have borrowed heavily from John Phillips' "The South African Wobblies—the Origins of Industrial Unions in South Africa" (*UFAHAMU*, Volume 8, Number 3, 1978) and Gary Jewell's detailed history "The Bloody Ground: Origins of Class War in South Africa" (unpublished, 1977).

Dave Tucker

LITERATURE!

Practical and Informational:

() Organizing Manual	.75
() Collective Bargaining Manual	2.00
() Labor Law for the Rank and Filer*	2.50
() Inflation: Cause and Cure	.25
() One Big Union (About the IWW)	1.25
() Workers' Guide to Direct Action	.35
() The General Strike (by Ralph Chaplin)	.75
() Unions and Racism	1.00
() Abolish the Wage System (ND)	.50
() IWW Preamble and Constitution	1.00
() Metal Workers' Guide to Health and Safety	.50
() A Quiz on You and the Arms Race	.10
(10 copies .75; 100 copies 3.00, 2.50 per additional 100)	

Music and Poetry:

() IWW Little Red Songbook	1.75
() The Rebel Girl (sheet music)	.50
() Didactic Verse (by Henry Pfaff)*	2.00
() The Grievance*	.95
() Workers of the World Awaken (sheet music)	.50
() We Have Fed You All for a Thousand Years (LP) (ND)	8.50

Historical:

() The IWW: Its First 70 Years (hardcover)	15.00
() The IWW: Its First 70 Years (paperback)	4.95
() Founding Convention of the IWW* (ND)	15.00
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LITERATURE DISCOUNT POLICY

Bulk orders of five or more of any item on the IWW Literature List, unless otherwise indicated, may be ordered at a 40% discount if orders are prepaid. We offer a 30% discount on similar orders which we must invoice. Postage will be added to all orders that are not prepaid. Please allow three weeks for delivery. (ND) indicates that no discount is available.

AVAILABLE FROM LOCAL IWW GROUPS:

A Workers' Guide to Direct Action: 50¢. New York IWW, PO Box 183, New York 10028.

Fellow Union Member: 10¢ each; bundles of 5 to 15, 5¢; 16 to 500, 3¢; over 500, 2¢. Tacoma/Olympia IWW, 2115 South Sheridan, Tacoma, Washington 98405.

Introduction to the IWW: 10¢ each; bulk rate 40% discount, paid in advance. San Francisco IWW, PO Box 40485, San Francisco, California 94140.

Solidarity Bulletin (monthly publication): \$10 a year. Vancouver IWW, PO Box 34334, Station D, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6J 4P3.

IWW baseball caps (one size fits all): \$4 each, add \$1 each for shipping. University Cellar IU 660 Job Branch (checks to IWW), 341 East Liberty, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107.

Please send all orders (unless otherwise designated) to: IWW, 3435 North Sheffield, Suite 202, Chicago, Illinois 60657 (USA).

Around Our Union

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO: Local Wobs and the Workers' Solidarity Club showed the IWW's print of the documentary film *The Wobblies* April 10th to a group of some 25 workers. The discussion which followed was reportedly both lively and enthusiastic, and copies of the *Industrial Worker* were available.

SAN FRANCISCO: Bay Area Wobs joined local demonstrations against military intervention April 20th, distributing copies of the *Industrial Worker* and making known their solidarity with fellow workers around the globe. On May 12th the Branch sponsored a potluck get-together, featuring lively discussion and IWW songs.

CHICAGO: The Branch has sponsored a number of activities in recent months. On March 30th nearly 60 people attended an open house featuring memorabilia from the IWW's fighting history as well as a chance to talk with local Wobs and obtain literature. Several copies of the *Industrial Worker* were distributed, and literature sales were also impressive. April 13th saw the Branch participate in a forum on the US war drive which drew some 50 people. Among the three speakers was FW Jon Bekken, whose talk stressed that the military buildup not only results in immediate harm to our fellow workers around the globe, but also is inimical to our own interests. On April 16th the Branch participated in a small forum on Non-Authoritarian Socialism with three local socialist and anarchist groups, distributing several copies of the *Industrial Worker* and selling several pamphlets. The Branch also participated in the April 20th demonstrations against US military intervention in Washington DC (see story this issue), and joined picket lines in solidarity with her fellow workers around the globe at the South African Consulate, the Philippine Consulate, and the Federal Plaza (protesting the visit of South Korea's dictator).

DAYTON, OHIO: Southwest Ohio Wobs have organized a local of the General Defense Committee, and continue to be active in the Coors boycott campaign and in anti-intervention work. At last report these fellow workers were initiating an organizing drive among educational workers in Cincinnati.

Reports on May Day activities next issue.

NEW WOB GROUP SPROUTING IN MASSACHUSETTS

New members have been joining the IWW this spring in towns along the Connecticut River in Western Massachusetts.

The new Wobblies from this area include mental-health workers, a grocery-store worker, and a technician at a local high school. They join the bookkeeper, high-school teacher, and mental-health worker already in the IWW, and several others have requested applications.

The mental-health workers are employees of a private company that contracts with the State to provide housing and services for the mentally retarded. Workers have been trying to negotiate a union contract with the company, Community Homes for Children, for nearly *three years!* Frustration and disinterest in the union, Local 40 of the Community, Educational, and Service Employees, are now prevalent moods. Because wages are kept low, and because of the agency's attitude that workers in the industry will eventually "move onward and upward in the world to a real job", the turnover among the workforce is very high, making continuity in negotiating even harder. The IWW members on the job are trying to recruit among the 30 or 40 other workers at the company, using the IWW as an example of a direct-action-oriented union.

Numerous contractors are competing to win care contracts from the State. The contracting companies, which are non-profit, can pay salaries of over \$30,000 to managers, but "can't afford" more than a measly \$4 an hour for direct-care staff and support staff, or for care beyond the State's minimum standards. Watch the *IW* for an upcoming article on these new "group homes" that have rapidly become a large industry in Massachusetts since the legislature ruled that the "free market" must be allowed to compete with State-operated hospitals and institutions.

Fellow Worker Dave Tucker held forth in Amherst, Greenfield, and Northampton on the need for the IWW's One Big Union. Turnouts were small, but new members signed up and *Industrial Worker* subscriptions and literature were sold. The weekly *Amherst Bulletin*, distributed to every address in the area, interviewed FW Tucker on the IWW's sudden resurgence in the Connecticut Valley.



Juneau Wobs join picket line against Alaska Federal Savings and Loan and Wick Construction. (photo by Janet Lumiansky)

RESURGENCE IN ALASKA

Although the Industrial Workers of the World was one of the first unions in Alaska, its instability has reflected the seasonal nature of work in America's "Last Frontier". Migratory labor is the status quo for Alaskans who travel thousands of miles for jobs around the state, from the fishing grounds of the Bering Sea to the gold fields of Nome to the Tyee Hydro Project and back. But the rising tide of worker consciousness has propelled the Wobblies forward.

In the spring of 1984, a militant rank-and-file federation of union members started in Anchorage and Fairbanks. By fall, "Solidarity Now Alaska" was holding meetings in Juneau that brought together hundreds of workers from about a dozen unions. Local activists who wanted to get involved with "Solidarity" found themselves in a double bind: They couldn't join "Solidarity" because they weren't members of a union, and they couldn't join the local trade unions because of the usual barriers of dues, crafts, and jobs. Many resolved the difficulty by joining the Southeast Alaska General Membership Branch of the IWW. But what could easily have become merely a tail of the Alaska Solidarity movement has grown into a solid branch of the IWW.

The IWW has two seats on the executive board of "Solidarity Now Southeast Alaska", as do other unions in organizations, and has participated in various rallies, picket lines, organizing drives, and other Solidarity activities, despite occasional red-baiting. But the Branch has gone ahead to organize among the workers of the tour ships that visit Alaska each season, to educate the public about the crews' working conditions, and to try to arrange better conditions for the crews ashore.

Other Branch activities include joining picket lines in support of the strike by Iron Workers Local 571 against the Alaska Savings and Loan, and that of the IAM workers against Alaska Airlines; producing a bi-weekly half-hour radio show (*Air Solidarity*) on the Juneau Community Radio station, KTOO-FM; presenting a film and lecture series which included "Factories for the Third World" and "For Export Only: Pills and Pesticides"; trying to co-ordinate joint fishery ventures by Alaskans and Nicaraguans; helping a local nursing home organize an independent local union; and singing at the Alaska State Folk Festival under the *nom de chantez* "Rank and File Singers".

A man who joined the IWW briefly during the 1923 North Dakota wheat harvest contacted the local Wobs after seeing a poster announcing one of Tuck's talks in Greenfield. FW Campbell followed the harvest for only a few months, joining the IWW as he rode freights from job to job. He'd had little contact with the IWW since that 1923 harvest season, and was "astonished" to hear that it's still around and organizing. Mr. and Mrs. Campbell took out a sub to the *Industrial Worker* and were eager to stay in touch.

The Western Massachusetts IWW Group is affiliated with the Boston General Membership Branch, but could have a charter of its own. The members live in adjoining towns in Franklin and Hampshire Counties, and have met several times for discussion and fun. The Group's address is PO Box 465, Hadley, Massachusetts 01035.

IWW Directory

ALASKA: Southeast Alaska General Membership Branch, PO Box 748, Douglas 99824. Ruth Sheridan, Delegate, 4704 Kenai, Anchorage 99508. Chris White, Box 72938, Fairbanks 99707.

BRITISH COLUMBIA: Vancouver General Membership Branch, Box 34334 Station D, Vancouver V6J 4P3, Canada, (604) 876-8438. West Kootenay IWW Group, PO Box 941, Nelson V1L 6A5, Canada.

CALIFORNIA: San Francisco Bay Area General Membership Branch, PO Box 40485, San Francisco 94140. Little River IWW Group, c/o PO Box 302, Little River 95456. R.M.R. Kroopkin, Delegate, 3924½ Park Boulevard, San Diego 92103. Richard Ellington, Delegate, 6448 Irwin Court, Oakland 94609, (415) 658-0293. Santa Clara Valley IWW Group, PO Box 9249, Number 194, San Jose 95157.

FLORIDA: Fred Hansen, Box 824, New Port Richey 33552.

GUAM: Shelby Shapiro, Delegate, PO Box 864, Agana, Guam 96910.

IDAHO: IWW Delegate, Route 1, Box 137, Potlach 83855. Southeastern Idaho Forest Workers Affinity Group IU 120, Box 764, Pocatello 83201.

ILLINOIS: Chicago General Membership Branch, 3435 North Sheffield, Suite 202, Chicago 60657, (312) 549-5045. Meetings first Wednesday of each month, 7:30 pm. Champaign-Urbana IWW Group, Jeff Stein, Delegate, 1007 North Randolph, Champaign 61820.

INDIANA: Mitchell Rice, Delegate, 7333 West Isom Road, Bloomington 47401.

KANSAS: General Defense Committee, Arthur J. Miller, Secretary, PO Box 6130, Kansas City 66106. IWW Delegate, PO Box 522, Wichita 67201. IWW Group, PO Box 1313, Lawrence 66044-8313.

KENTUCKY: Louisville IWW Group, 2024 Baringer Avenue, Louisville 40204.

MANITOBA: Winnipeg IWW Group, "Haywire Brack", Delegate, Box 161, Station C, Winnipeg R3M 3S7, Canada.

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston General Membership Branch PO Box 454, Cambridge 02139. Meetings first Sunday of each month, 522-7090 or 625-5107.

MICHIGAN: Southeast Michigan General Membership Branch, 42 South Summit, Ypsilanti 48197, (313) 483-3478. Meetings second Sunday of each month. University Cellar IU 660 Job Branch, 341 East Liberty, Ann Arbor 48107. People's Warehouse IU 660 Job Branch, c/o Burkhardt, 727 West Ellsworth Road, Ann Arbor 48104. IWW Delegate, 415 Ethel, Grand Rapids 49506.

MINNESOTA: Twin Cities IWW Group, Nancy Arthur Collins, Delegate, 1621 Marshall, Number 3, Saint Paul 55104.

MONTANA: Clark Fork Valley IWW Group, PO Box 8562, Missoula 59807, (406) 728-6053. A. L. Nurse, Delegate, Route 5, Box 88, Thompson Falls 59874, (406) 827-3238.

NEW YORK: New York City General Membership Branch PO Box 183, New York 10028. Henry Pfaff, Delegate, 77 Eckhart, Buffalo 14207, (816) 877-6073. Jackie Panish, Delegate, 99-12 56th Road, Number 5-J, Rego Park 11374, (212) 868-1121.

OHIO: Southwest Ohio IWW Group and General Defense Committee Local 1, Corey Slavitt, Delegate, 1119 Xenia Avenue, Yellow Springs 45387, (513) 767-1727.

ONTARIO: Brian Burch, Delegate, 257B Carlton Street, Toronto M1A 2L4, Canada.

PENNSYLVANIA: Tom Hill, Delegate, PO Box 41928, Philadelphia 19101.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Harbinger Publications IU 450, 18 Bluff Road, Columbia 29201, (803) 254-9398.

TEXAS: Andrew Lee, Delegate, 3402 Enfield, Apartment B, Austin 78703, (512) 472-7854. Gilbert Mers, Delegate, 7031 Kernel, Houston 77087, (713) 921-0877.

WASHINGTON: Bellingham General Membership Branch PO Box 1386, Bellingham 98227. Seattle General Membership Branch, 3238 33rd Avenue South, Seattle 98144. Tacoma/Olympia General Membership Branch, 2115 South Sheridan, Tacoma 98405, (206) 272-8119. Orchard Workers Organizing Project, Box 2223, Chelan 98816. Walla Walla IWW Group, PO Box 329, Walla Walla 99862, (509) 525-0066.

WISCONSIN: Madison General Membership Branch, c/o 1846 Jennifer, Madison 53704.

WHY JOIN THE IWW?

Because there are things we can do together that we cannot do alone. Some of these things will benefit your job and some will merely benefit the human race. Whether we are in a position to get you a pay raise or not, your conscience will repay you and your self-respect will increase if you join with us to get things done.

Since we are a union, this offer is open only to those who work for wages or salary; but since we are building One Big Union, it is open to wage and salary workers whether they happen to bargain through other unions or not. Look at the directory on Page 7. If you can readily reach someone there, do so. If not, write to the General Secretary, IWW, 3435 North Sheffield, Chicago, IL 60657, with a line about your job. The initiation fee is \$5 in the U.S., and dues are \$5 a month.

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Wars & Rumors of Wars

SHELL GAME: The Pentagon is quietly planning to make a nuclear artillery shell that could double as the same sort of "enhanced radiation" neutron bomb which caused a furor in the US and Europe in the late 1970s. Current US law prohibits construction of neutron bombs, which unlike nuclear bombs, whose blast and heat wreak general destruction, emit lethal doses of radiation while restricting blast and fire damage to a relatively small area. But there is nothing in the law to prevent the Pentagon from making a nuclear artillery shell that could be converted into an enhanced-radiation weapon by later inserting one critical part: a "tritium module". Neutron bombs, described as the ultimate capitalist weapon because they would kill people and leave property almost unscathed, upset Europeans because they're afraid that NATO forces under US control would be more tempted to use them than to use "conventional" nuclear weapons, making Europe the staging area for superpower conflicts. The bill, authorizing the Pentagon to spend \$1.1 billion for up to 925 such shells, passed through Congress as a late-night amendment to a Fiscal 1985 military-funding bill that outlawed the construction of neutron bombs.

THE WAR GAMES IN HONDURAS never cease. The US finished its Big Pine exercises early in April with a show of tank maneuvers and counter-insurgency techniques, and opened its Universal Trek exercises. Universal Trek, in mid-April, involved some 7,000 GIs staging a mock air assault on the port city of La Ceiba in Northern Honduras, with Honduran ground forces joining in the fun, as even President Reagan chastised the Nicaraguan Government for its warlike intentions.

LAW-ENFORCEMENT COSTS: The US spent about \$17 million on police "protection" in 1981, up from \$15 billion in 1980. (Did you feel safer?) According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there were some 550,000 detectives employed in 1982, plus another 637,000 security guards, about half of them with industrial firms or private agencies. According to the executive director of the American Federation of Police: "For every 1,000 people, we need two officers." He didn't say what for, but did admit that "People in the field are the second-largest group for committing suicide and for having high divorce and drug-abuse rates."

NEW POLICE WEAPONS: Military researchers in the Philippines have unveiled a new "itching bullet" that will incapacitate political protesters but will cause them no permanent harm. "The project was conceived with the purpose of applying it to demonstrators who might go out of control," said the Military's Research and Development chief, adding that the bullets (12-gauge shotgun shells with the powder charge and lead content reduced) make a person "suffer extreme itchiness all over his body for several hours". The sap comes from the wild Lipay fruit of the Southern Philippines, so using it might be cheaper than importing plastic bullets from Britain. It has to be the money involved, not concern over harming demonstrators. Philippine military-intelligence personnel systematically torture persons arrested without warrants for violating "public order", according to information documented by Amnesty International.

LOCKHEED EXPANSION BLOCKED: On January 8th, culminating a seven-year campaign spearheaded by People for a Nuclear-Free Future, the Santa Cruz, Cali-

fornia Board of Supervisors voted to prohibit the expansion of a facility where nuclear-weapons parts are built. In a 3-2 vote, the Supervisors denied the Lockheed Missiles and Space Company's permit request for a three-quarter-acre building to manufacture parts for the Trident II nuclear-weapons system.

"SECRET WARS" LEGACY: As Congress continues to waffle about the CIA-arranged war in Nicaragua, the rest of us might do well to contemplate the record of CIA-sponsored wars over the last quarter-century. These "secret wars" have included US backing of Sumatran dissidents opposing Indonesia's left-leaning President Sukarno, Tibetan Khamba tribespeople harassing the Chinese Communists, the *Armee Clandestine* of Hmong and other tribal minorities in Laos, the Kurdish rebels in Iraq, and of course the Bay of Pigs brigade. And these are only the "failures". The equally-dismal list of "successes" includes ousting Mohammed Mossadegh of Iran (and restoring the Shah), Jacobo Arbenz of Guatemala, Salvador Allende of Chile, and so on.

THE VICIOUS CIRCLE: MONEY AND GUNS

Everyone mouths the cliché "Patriotism is the last refuge of scoundrels", but no one ever seems to connect it with defense-corporation executives, who claim that "healthy" profits are necessary to maintain a defense industrial base to beat off the Russians. According to annual reports, the 10 largest US weapon makers realized a 25% return after tax on equity in 1984. By contrast, the average return for manufacturing companies of all sorts was only 12.8%.

The 10 companies reviewed were Boeing, General Dynamics, Grumman, Litton, Lockheed, Martin Marietta, McDonnell Douglas, Northrop, Raytheon, and Rockwell International. Six of these companies sold two thirds of their output to the Federal Government, and the other four sold at least 40%. The 25% average-return figure thus understates how much the contractors make on their military business, as this average includes commercial sales, in which profit rates are lower.

The profits of the contractors reviewed are also conservatively estimated in another sense, in that the "after tax" figures subtract deferred taxes as well as taxes actually paid. Under tax law the 10 companies were able to defer more than \$1.1 billion in taxes last year. Thus they retained that money, just as they did the after-tax profits, increasing their actual profits to around 35%. General Dynamics, for example, under the tax-deferment laws paid no federal taxes last year despite pre-tax profits of \$683.6 million. The company has not paid any taxes since 1972.

The 10 companies reported that their backlog of Government orders, an indicator of future profits, had risen to more than 80 billion. Their backlog of commercial business is considerably smaller.

The top 20 weapon makers have doubled their political contributions via PACs (political action committees) since President Reagan took office, pouring \$3.6 million into the 1984 Congressional and Presidential campaigns. Not surprisingly, most top Congressional recipients were supporters of the \$1.8 trillion arms buildup under the Reagan Administration. That the companies were not

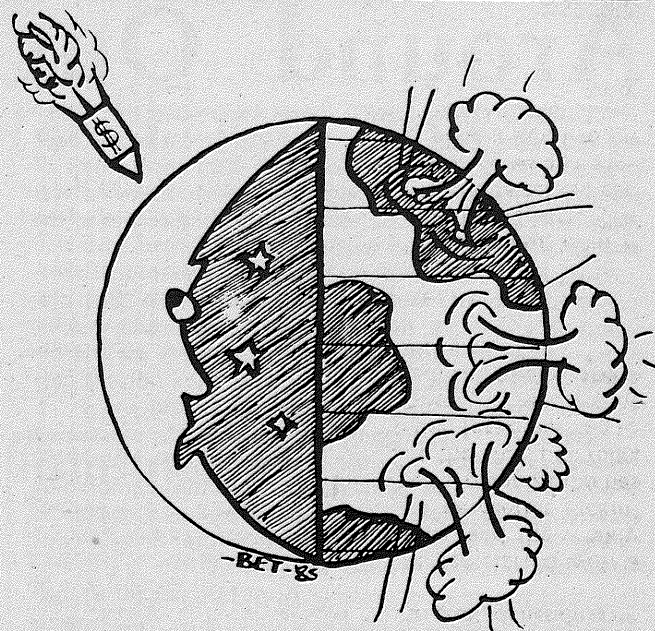
ber. In the next two weeks, recruiters met protests at Columbia and Berkeley Universities. The CIA met with its most elaborate reception, however, at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. There the three CIA recruiters were hauled before a student court where they were charged with crimes against humanity, including the overthrow of Allende in Chile and Arbenz in Guatemala and the illegal mining of Nicaragua's harbors.

Amid clanging pots and pans, silenced by the black-robed judge's gavel, CIA representative Andres Vaart told the Ann Arbor "court" that he was unprepared to answer the charges. "Do the people want to have these charges answered?" the judge asked. "Yes!" was the resounding response. From where the recruiters huddled beneath a banner that read "Covert, Institutionalized Atrocities", they were eventually escorted off the campus by some 50 students who saw them to their car. All campus interviews were summarily canceled.

30,000 MARCH AGAINST US INTERVENTION

Some 30,000 demonstrators converged on Washington DC April 20th, demanding an end to US intervention in Central America, support for South Africa's apartheid regime, and the arms race. After marching for two hours down Washington's marble strip of government buildings and monuments in sweltering heat (water fountains along the route were reportedly shut off for the day), protesters rallied on the Capitol steps, where they listened to speeches by liberals of varying hues decrying the sins of Reagan and company. Similar demonstrations took place in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle.

Among the participants were Wobblies from at least five states, expressing solidarity with our fellow workers around the world. Most of these Wobs marched with a revolutionary contingent formed to counterpose class war and international solidarity to the pleas by the demonstration's organizers that the politicians and bosses reform themselves. Hundreds of copies of the *Industrial Worker* and other literature were distributed.



CAPITALISM:
IT CAN PUT A MAN ON THE MOON,
BUT IT CAN'T PUT PEACE ON EARTH.

spending their money in vain can be seen from the example of Rockwell. Through its political-action committee, Rockwell increased contributions from \$59,625 in 1980 to \$328,440 in 1984. Over those four years, Rockwell's military contracts rose to \$8.4 billion from \$1 billion, pushing the weapon maker that is building the B-1 bomber from the 14th spot on the Pentagon's annual list of major contractors to Number 1. Lockheed did almost as well. By increasing its political contributions by 350% from 1980 to 1984 to a total of \$420,191, it increased its Pentagon contracts from \$2 billion in 1980 to \$5.2 billion in 1984.

Meanwhile, 7% of the military outlay from 1981 to 1986 (a mere \$100 billion) would rehabilitate the US steel industry to become the most efficient in the world. A mere \$8.4 billion, the 1981 cost overrun on the Navy's Aegis cruiser program, would fund the research and development effort needed to produce 80-to-100-mile-per-gallon cars. The cost of just one B-1 bomber, \$400 million, would rebuild Cleveland's water-supply system. And \$82 million, the cost of three Army AH-64 helicopters, would pay for 100 top-quality, energy-efficient electric trolleys. Forty-six Army tanks at \$120 million are equal in cost to 500 city busses. The nuclear-warhead program of 1981, at \$5 billion, would have rehabilitated New York City's sewer system. The 26.4 billion 1980 cost overrun on the Navy's F-18 aircraft program would have paid the cost of electrifying 55,000 miles of railroad and bought the locomotives to run on it.

How much longer are we going to allow these scoundrels to beat the anti-communism drums to rob us?

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STUDENTS RALLY AGAINST CIA

Since last fall, students in universities across the US have been protesting the presence of CIA recruiters on campus. In April 300 people were arrested in two days of protest against the recruiters at Colorado University, and police sprayed mace on 100 protesters who tried to push through a police line to disrupt a CIA interview site at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. At Yale, six students who were arrested March 4th on charges of disrupting CIA recruiting on campus were put on probation by administrators.

The upsurge of resistance to CIA recruiters began last fall when recruiters were officially denied permission to set foot on the Tufts University campus in early Novem-



Wobblies from five states joined 30,000 other marchers in Washington DC April 20th.

FOOTLOOSE WOBBS NEEDED

Need some dough? Want to get in on some Wobbly action? There is work to be had in the apple orchards of the Columbia Valley in Washington State this fall, and the Orchard Workers' Organizing Project (IWW) could use your help. The fruit harvest usually begins in mid-September and lasts about a month, and many orchards provide trailers or shacks to live in. The pay during the apple harvest is piece rate, ranging from about \$7.50 to \$12 a bin. (A bin holds about a thousand pounds of fruit and takes an hour or two to pick, depending on lots of variable factors.)

Last year the Organizing Project got started with a series of meetings in the Chelan area, and the weekly publication and distribution of the newsletter *Pickin' Times*. The idea of an orchard workers' organization has some support among the pickers in the area, but folks have just been sitting back and waiting for something to happen. Major concerns include racism, sexism, decent housing in all orchards, use of chemical sprays, and a standardized piece rate for all workers.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

You can lend a hand and make some cash, even if you don't know much about the fruit industry. The more people we have in the orchards, the faster we can organize. You can help distribute *Pickin' Times* and generally fan the flames. For help in finding a job, tips on efficient picking, and information on the campaign, contact the Orchard Workers' Organizing Project, c/o IWW, PO Box 1386, Bellingham, Washington 98227.